

EXHIBIT 2

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
3 EASTERN DIVISION

4 - - -

5
6 IN RE: NATIONAL : HON. DAN A.
7 PRESCRIPTION OPIATE : POLSTER
8 LITIGATION :
9 : MDL NO. 2804
10 APPLIES TO ALL CASES :
11 : CASE NO.
12 : 17-MD-2804
13 :

14 - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -
15 SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW
16 VOLUME I

17 - - -

18 May 16, 2019

19 - - -

20 Videotaped deposition of
21 DR. SETH B. WHITELOW, taken pursuant to
22 notice, was held at the offices of Golkow
23 Litigation Services, One Liberty Place,
24 1650 Market Street, Philadelphia,
25 Pennsylvania beginning at 9:18 a.m., on
26 the above date, before Michelle L. Gray,
27 a Registered Professional Reporter,
28 Certified Shorthand Reporter, Certified
29 Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public.

30 - - -

31 GOLKOW LITIGATION SERVICES
32 877.370.3377 ph | 917.591.5672 fax
33 deps@golkow.com

1 questions, and you'll answer the
2 questions. I'll let you finish your
3 answers, but please let me finish my
4 questions first.

5 Your counsel's probably
6 asked you to pause for a few seconds so
7 he can get an objection in.

8 Plaintiffs' counsel -- or
9 excuse me. If -- if you have any --
10 please ask me a question if you have any
11 time -- if you have any at any time. If
12 you don't -- if you don't have any
13 concerns or questions with my questions,
14 I'll assume you understood them.

15 And if you need to take a
16 break at any time, just go ahead and ask
17 and we'll -- we can take a break. I just
18 ask that if a question is pending, that
19 you answer the question before we take a
20 break.

21 Sound good?

22 A. Sounds very good.

23 Q. When were you first
24 contacted by the plaintiffs about

1 participating as an expert in this
2 litigation?

3 A. It would have been November,
4 December time frame, 2018. I can't be
5 precise on the date, but to the best of
6 my recollection.

7 Q. This was last year?

8 A. Yeah. This would have been
9 last year.

10 Q. And who contacted you?

11 A. I honestly don't remember
12 the first contact. But contact came from
13 the law firm of Seeger Weiss.

14 Q. Did you work with anyone on
15 Seeger Weiss on -- on your report, on
16 preparing your report?

17 A. Other than providing
18 invoices and things back and forth, no.

19 Q. Which plaintiffs' counsel
20 have you been working with?

21 A. I've worked with a number of
22 them --

23 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

24 You can answer.

1 hour for your work on this litigation?

2 A. \$400 an hour, sir, which is
3 my standard rate.

4 Q. And is that hourly rate,
5 does it apply to preparation of your
6 report and testifying?

7 A. Yes, sir, it does.

8 Q. How much time have you spent
9 on this case so far?

10 A. I have probably almost
11 1200 hours in.

12 Q. So you've billed
13 approximately \$480,000 to this case so
14 far; is that right?

15 A. If you count both billed and
16 unbilled time, yeah, that would be about
17 the right number.

18 Q. In these 1200 hours, what
19 have you done?

20 A. In these 1200 hours I've
21 actually produced a 300 -- the report
22 that you have in front of you which you
23 are well aware of. I have looked at six
24 different defendants, from a federal

1 followed the same uniform approach that I
2 do when I do any kind of a compliance
3 investigation, or compliance assessment.

4 I use the federal sentencing
5 guidelines as my sort of framework. And
6 I asked counsel, in this case, serving
7 like I would a client, I need documents
8 in these particular areas, could you
9 please provide me with information that
10 relates to these particular areas. And
11 they provided me with those documents.

12 If I was unclear or I didn't
13 get exactly -- it is an iterative
14 process. So if I was unclear or I didn't
15 get what I was looking for, I asked
16 further follow-up questions. I asked for
17 further information. Once I got that
18 information, I then reviewed it.

19 Q. What were the original
20 categories of documents that you
21 requested from plaintiffs' counsel?

22 A. We can turn to my report and
23 we can go down the eight elements of the
24 federal sentencing guidelines if you'd

1 Q. Have you spoken with any of
2 plaintiffs' other experts?

3 A. Yes, I have.

4 Q. Who have you -- which --
5 which other plaintiffs' experts have you
6 spoken with?

7 A. I spoke at length with
8 Mr. Rafalski. We had several
9 conversations. Again, his expertise as a
10 DEA agent and certainly what DEA was
11 thinking at the time and how an inspector
12 would approach the controlled substances
13 regulations, were of particular
14 importance and use to me as far as
15 understanding what I was looking at, and
16 having an understanding of the DEA's
17 positions on certain topics.

18 Q. Did you speak with any of
19 other -- any other of plaintiffs'
20 experts?

21 A. Not that I can recall, sir.

22 Q. Do you know Craig McCann?

23 A. I don't know Craig McCann.
24 I know of Craig McCann.

1 Q. Have you spoken with
2 Mr. McCann?

3 A. No, sir, I have not.

4 Q. Did you provide Mr. McCann
5 with any of your analysis or work?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you provide Mr. Rafalski
8 with any of your analysis or work?

9 A. No, I did not provide
10 Mr. Rafalski with any of my analysis or
11 work. I asked him questions, we had
12 telephone conversations.

13 Q. In preparing your report or
14 reaching any of your opinions, did you
15 speak with anyone from the DEA?

16 A. Well, I would assume
17 Mr. Rafalski counsel's former DEA, but if
18 you're asking me anybody -- are you
19 asking me the question of anybody
20 currently employed by DEA?

21 Q. Yes, sir.

22 A. No, sir, I did not speak to
23 anybody who is currently employed with
24 the Drug Enforcement Administration.

1 Q. And other than Mr. Rafalski,
2 did you speak with anyone who was
3 formerly employed by the DEA in reaching
4 your opinions?

5 A. No, sir, he was the only one
6 I spoke with.

7 Q. Last summer did you attend a
8 meeting with plaintiffs' counsel and
9 several of the other expert witnesses in
10 this case?

11 A. Last summer?

12 Q. Last summer.

13 A. Can you -- can you be more
14 specific on last summer?

15 Q. June 2018.

16 A. No, sir, I did not. As I
17 said to you, I wasn't -- they didn't
18 reach out to me until November 2018.

19 Q. Have you attended any -- any
20 meetings with plaintiffs' counsel and
21 other plaintiffs' experts in this case
22 since you were retained in November of
23 2018?

24 A. Could you say that question

1 A. DEA compliance programs, as
2 we will -- as noted in my report, are a
3 subset of the larger corporate compliance
4 program.

5 So you have a corporate
6 compliance program. You have an
7 anti-diversion program under that. You
8 have a suspicious order monitoring
9 program under that.

10 So it's all sort of a
11 subsumed in the bigger picture. We are
12 talking compliance, we are talking
13 compliance with all laws and regulations,
14 the systems and processes designed at the
15 corporate level.

16 Q. Have you designed a DEA
17 compliance program before?

18 A. I have not designed a DEA
19 compliance program in the sense of a
20 controlled substances. I have designed a
21 sample and sample accountability PDMA
22 compliance programs. As you know, those
23 are substantially similar programs. You
24 need to know who you are selling -- you

1 would have been a long time ago. First
2 time I read it? A long time ago.

3 Q. You worked as an intern at
4 the office of chief counsel at FDA?

5 A. I did for a period of time.

6 Q. It was for one year,
7 correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. That was from 1988 to 1989?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. And then you took an
12 associate position at Fox Bennett &
13 Turner?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. That was your first position
16 after law school, right?

17 A. Yeah. That would have been
18 correct.

19 Q. And Fox Bennett & Turner is
20 a private law firm?

21 A. Yes. Was originally Fox
22 Weinberg & Bennett. Is now -- it was
23 then Fox Bennett & Turner. I have no
24 idea what it's evolved into now, If the

1 firm is even still in existence at this
2 point.

3 Q. Your work at the Fox Bennett
4 & Turner firm was on food, drug, and
5 environmental issues, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. After a year at Fox
8 Bennett & Turner, you moved to the
9 company of FD Inc.?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. And you were the head of
12 sales and marketing?

13 A. I did.

14 MR. BOGLE: Make sure you
15 say yes or no rather than
16 "mm-hmm," just sort of -- so the
17 record is clear. The court
18 reporter will get onto you a
19 little.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

21 MR. BOGLE: She's nice,
22 but...

23 THE WITNESS: I'll try to do
24 better.

1 A. Never -- my time, never
2 manufactured stents. Surgical catheters,
3 yes. Feeding tubes, yes. Urological
4 catheters, yes. Other specialty
5 catheters, yes. And electrophysiology
6 devices. It was a whole host of devices.

7 Q. C.R. Bard is not a wholesale
8 drug distributor, is it?

9 A. Not by the definition of
10 what a wholesale drug distributor is, no.

11 Q. C.R. Bard does not
12 manufacture opioids?

13 A. At least not when I was
14 there, no they did not.

15 Q. C.R. Bard does not
16 distribute opioids?

17 A. Not when -- during the time
18 that I was present.

19 Q. Or any other controlled
20 substance?

21 A. To the best of my knowledge,
22 again, not when I was there.

23 Q. Did you provide any
24 compliance advice regarding the

1 Q. But the policies focus on
2 providing samples to physicians, that's
3 true, correct?

4 A. That -- that is true.

5 Q. Now, SmithKline was --

6 A. Or other -- other
7 prescribers, so let's be clear. You can
8 have nurse practitioners, or physician's
9 assistants, who also have prescribing
10 privileges. We could provide samples to
11 them.

12 Q. Thank you for that.
13 SmithKline was a
14 pharmaceutical manufacturer, right?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. SmithKline was not a
17 wholesale drug distributor?

18 A. No, sir, it was not.

19 Q. SmithKline did not
20 manufacture opioids, correct?

21 A. No.

22 Q. SmithKline did not
23 distribute opioids?

24 A. To the best of my knowledge,

1 no. I don't believe we had any products
2 that were opioids.

3 Q. And SmithKline did not
4 distribute controlled substances?

5 A. Again, to the best of my
6 recollection, we did not distribute any
7 controlled substances.

8 Q. Now, you were promoted -- or
9 excuse me. Let me strike that.

10 At some point SmithKline
11 merged with Glaxo, correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And you became the
14 compliance officer?

15 A. I became the compliance
16 officer for the global R&D business unit.

17 Q. You ensured that Glaxo --
18 and the new company was known as
19 GlaxoSmithKline?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And you ensured in your
22 position that GlaxoSmithKline's global
23 research and development operations
24 complied with international regulatory

1 requirements?

2 A. Domestic and international,
3 yes.

4 Q. Now, GlaxoSmithKline is a
5 pharmaceutical manufacturer, correct?

6 A. Yes, sir, it is.

7 Q. GlaxoSmithKline is not a
8 wholesale drug distributor?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. GlaxoSmithKline does not
11 manufacture opioids?

12 A. No. GlaxoSmithKline does
13 not manufacture opioids. But let us be
14 clear, and especially in the research and
15 development arm, they use opioids.
16 Opioids are used in the testing. So,
17 therefore, DEA compliance such as
18 security controls, vaults, sign-ins, all
19 that is absolutely relevant. And yes, I
20 did work in that space.

21 Q. But -- and I appreciate that
22 distinction. But GlaxoSmithKline does
23 not manufacture opioids, correct?

24 A. That is correct.

1 Q. GlaxoSmithKline does not
2 distribute opioids, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. GlaxoSmithKline does not
5 distribute controlled substances?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. After GlaxoSmithKline, you
8 became a director in the life sciences
9 compliance department at Deloitte &
10 Touche?

11 A. I did.

12 Q. Your LinkedIn page states
13 that you had a special focus on bribery
14 and corruption issues pertaining to
15 research trials, and grants, medical
16 affairs and medical science liaisons?

17 A. That was certainly one of
18 the focuses. But I had -- again, my
19 duties as a director of life sciences
20 buttoned up around a bunch -- bunch of
21 duties.

22 But, yes, my specialty was
23 that particular area. I had a lot of
24 expertise in that space.

1 A. Misonix.

2 Q. Misonix. I butchered that
3 one, didn't I?

4 You became the interim chief
5 compliance officer at Misonix?

6 A. I was interim chief
7 compliance officer.

8 Q. You were there for about
9 seven months?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And why -- why did you leave
12 after seven months?

13 A. Because they no longer
14 needed the services that I was providing.
15 My job was to stand up and get the
16 compliance program running for that -- it
17 was a small company.

18 Q. It was a medical device
19 company?

20 A. Medical device company on
21 Long Island.

22 Q. Misonix is not a wholesale
23 pharmaceutical distributor?

24 A. No, sir.

1 Q. Misonix does not manufacture
2 opioids?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Misonix does not manufacture
5 controlled substances, correct?

6 A. No, sir, it does not.

7 Q. Following your time at
8 Misonix, you started the Whitelaw
9 Compliance Group?

10 A. No, actually the Whitelaw
11 Compliance Group predates my job -- my
12 job at Misonix. And Misonix was part
13 of -- was a consulting gig.

14 Q. Your current position is the
15 president and CEO of Whitelaw Compliance
16 Group, correct?

17 A. Correct. It's my company.

18 Q. Your company is described in
19 your CV, as, "Focused exclusively to
20 small to medium-sized FDA-regulated
21 companies." Is that right?

22 A. That's -- that's the general
23 direction that I work in, yes.

24 Q. You focus on small and

1 medium-sized FDA regulatory companies?

2 A. I do focus on them.

3 Q. Your company does not focus
4 on compliance at large companies,
5 correct?

6 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

7 THE WITNESS: Typically,
8 Chris, it doesn't, although I will
9 do work for large companies.
10 Typically the larger companies are
11 looking for the Deloitte &
12 Touches, the Pfizers. And the
13 Pfizers of the world, GSKs of the
14 world are looking for the large
15 big four. I'm not trying to
16 compete with the big four. That's
17 not the services that I provide.

18 BY MR. EPPICH:

19 Q. I was looking at your
20 company's website, specifically the
21 advertised services that you advertise.
22 And I saw that you -- you do not
23 advertise services for pharmaceutical
24 wholesale distributors, correct?

1 experiences or services concerning DEA on
2 your website, do you?

3 A. Not that I rightly recall.

4 Q. Mr. Whitelaw, you never
5 worked at the DEA, did you?

6 A. No, sir. I didn't. I
7 didn't have the honor.

8 Q. You've never worked at a
9 wholesale distributor?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you know how many
12 wholesale distributors are in the United
13 States right now?

14 A. No. Afraid I don't have a
15 hard count for you.

16 Q. And you testified earlier
17 that you've never designed a compliance
18 program for wholesale distributor that's
19 currently in use, correct?

20 A. No. That's not what I
21 testified to. You asked me if I did
22 controlled substances work. As far as
23 designing compliance programs for others,
24 yes, I have.

1 at any of the defendants named in this
2 litigation?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Have you ever worked at a
5 chain pharmacy?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Have you ever designed a
8 compliance program for a large chain
9 pharmacy that is currently in use?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Have you ever designed a
12 controlled substance compliance program
13 for a pharmaceutical manufacturer that is
14 currently in use?

15 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

16 THE WITNESS: Again, I can't
17 answer that for you. I don't
18 know.

19 BY MR. EPPICH:

20 Q. On your CV, I notice that
21 your CV does not mention the Controlled
22 Substances Act; is that true? Would you
23 agree?

24 A. I would have to read it all

1 over again. Do you want to give me a
2 minute to read it to make sure that I can
3 answer that honestly?

4 MR. BOGLE: If you need to
5 read it, you can read it.

6 THE WITNESS: No, it doesn't
7 say the magic word "controlled
8 substances" in my resumé.

9 BY MR. EPPICH:

10 Q. Your CV doesn't mention
11 opioids, does it?

12 A. No, it doesn't have that
13 magic word in there either.

14 Q. And it doesn't mention
15 controlled substances?

16 A. I believe I just answered
17 that question, and the answer is no, it
18 does not.

19 Q. Your CV doesn't mention
20 diversion of opioids at all either, does
21 it?

22 A. No, sir, it does not.

23 Q. The DEA and the FDA, you're
24 familiar with those agencies?

1 A. DEA and FDA?

2 Q. Yes, sir.

3 A. Yes, sir, I'm familiar with
4 both agencies.

5 Q. And the DEA and the FDA are
6 different federal agencies, correct?

7 A. Yes, that is correct.

8 Q. DEA and FDA have different
9 regulatory focuses?

10 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

11 THE WITNESS: So they have
12 different regulatory focuses, but
13 I would also qualify that there's
14 overlap between the two, and the
15 two work together in certain
16 instances, controlled substances
17 being an excellent example of
18 that.

19 BY MR. EPPICH:

20 Q. Well, the DEA is the agency
21 with primary responsibility for enforcing
22 the Controlled Substances Act, correct?

23 A. With the Controlled
24 Substances Act, yes.

1 Q. And the FDA is not the
2 government agency charged with enforcing
3 the Controlled Substances Act, correct?

4 A. That is --

5 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

6 THE WITNESS: That is
7 correct.

8 BY MR. EPPICH:

9 Q. FDA does not promulgate
10 regulations under the Controlled
11 Substances Act?

12 A. I'm sorry. Say that again,
13 please.

14 Q. Does the FDA promulgate
15 regulations under the Controlled
16 Substances Act?

17 A. Not usually.

18 Q. Not ever, correct?

19 A. To the best of my knowledge,
20 no.

21 MR. BOGLE: Chris, if you're
22 shifting to another area, we've
23 been almost an hour ten I think.

24 MR. EPPICH: Maybe ten more

1 A. To my knowledge, no, it's
2 not a criminal case.

3 Q. And under the guideline's
4 own applicability section, the guidelines
5 are not applicable to this civil
6 litigation.

7 Would you agree?

8 MR. BOGLE: Objection.

9 THE WITNESS: No, sir, I
10 would not agree. I fundamentally
11 disagree with where you are going
12 with this.

13 The guidelines are the basic
14 framework. They are where
15 everybody starts. It's where
16 industry starts. It's where
17 compliance professionals start.
18 It's where good companies start,
19 et cetera.

20 It is the baseline. It has
21 become the de facto set of
22 standards that you start with when
23 you're looking at and assessing
24 corporate compliance programs.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The OIG guidances were not
3 issued by DEA, correct?

4 A. No, they weren't.

5 Q. And the OIG guidances don't
6 address the Controlled Substances Act or
7 suspicious order monitoring?

8 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

9 THE WITNESS: Could you
10 rephrase the question, please?

11 BY MR. EPPICH:

12 Q. Do the OIG guidances address
13 the Controlled Substances Act or discuss
14 the Controlled Substances Act?

15 MR. BOGLE: Same objection.

16 THE WITNESS: Not in so many
17 words, no. But again, I would go
18 back to the conversation that we
19 had earlier. You're reading this
20 in a very narrow context. In the
21 world of compliance, we look at a
22 lot of guidance.

23 The OIG guidance, the Bard
24 case, are all examples of putting

1 Q. You're fine. It's hard
2 sometimes.

3 MR. BOGLE: Can you restate
4 the question for him just so we're
5 clear. I think he jumped on you.

6 MR. EPPICH: I will. I'm
7 trying to restate it in my head
8 first.

9 MR. BOGLE: Okay. That's
10 fine.

11 BY MR. EPPICH:

12 Q. Dr. Whitelaw, are you aware
13 of anyone who has ever used a scale such
14 as the one that you prepared in Figure 2
15 to measure how a distributor complies
16 with the Controlled Substances Act and
17 its associated regulations?

18 A. Not in that context, no.

19 Q. Now, looking at -- looking
20 at your model in Figure 2, is there a
21 point system or some other system that
22 you apply to evaluate the maturity of the
23 compliance program?

24 A. There is not a strict

1 quantitative methodology. It's more of a
2 qualitative assessment.

3 Q. And does your report reflect
4 the nature of the qualitative assessment
5 to move from say foundational to
6 maturing, to advancing, to leading?

7 A. Yeah. I think if you look
8 at the bullet points underneath there,
9 and also if you look at the attributes
10 that we discussed before, you will come
11 up with that.

12 Q. So the attributes that we
13 reviewed from Pages 28 to 42 and then the
14 bullet points that we see here under
15 Figure 2.

16 A. Right. They're all combined
17 together.

18 Q. Now, have you applied Figure
19 2, your model, to the compliance programs
20 that are used by the defendants in this
21 litigation?

22 A. Yes. I believe we can go
23 find the page citations. Yes, it was
24 used.

1 GAO reports or any congressional
2 testimony, to your recollection?

3 A. I don't recall. I honestly
4 don't recall at this point.

5 Q. Now, sir, is it your opinion
6 that companies should look to government
7 guidances from the relevant regulatory
8 agencies when designing their compliance
9 programs?

10 A. Yes, they should.

11 Q. That would include the OIG
12 guidances that you discussed in your
13 report?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And perhaps even the DOJ
16 updated guidance on evaluating corporate
17 compliance programs that you discussed in
18 your supplemental report?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is it your opinion that
21 companies should look at settlements and
22 precedents when designing their
23 compliance programs?

24 A. Yes.

1 Q. That would include the
2 Rochester Drug Cooperative deferred
3 prosecution agreement that we saw in your
4 supplemental report?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And the U.S. versus C.R.
7 Bard plea agreement that you discuss in
8 your report?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And the federal sentencing
11 guidelines that you discuss in your
12 report?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Have you always held this
15 opinion, these opinions?

16 A. Have I always held these
17 opinions?

18 Q. Yes, sir.

19 A. Ever since I've been a
20 compliance officer, yes. Again, you use
21 what's available to you to build an
22 effective compliance program. All this
23 material are data points that you can
24 draw from in building an effective

1 compliance program.

2 Q. Now, you -- you actually
3 held though, the opposite view about
4 these opinions and about the value of
5 looking at guidances from regulatory
6 agencies, settlements, and prior
7 precedents, right?

8 A. I'm not sure what you're
9 talking about, so I -- you're going to
10 have to be more specific, sir.

11 (Document marked for
12 identification as Exhibit
13 Whitelaw-8.)

14 BY MR. EPPICH:

15 Q. Let me introduce as Exhibit
16 Number 8. Exhibit Number 8 is an article
17 entitled "Government Standards Undermine
18 Compliance Efforts in Life Science
19 Companies," by Seth B. Whitelaw dated
20 March 7, 2018. I'll hand you that, sir.

21 A. Yeah, let me see it.

22 Q. You are familiar with this
23 article, sir?

24 A. I am. Is there something in

1 particular that we want to look at in it?

2 Q. Yeah. So we -- if we turn
3 to Page 2.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. And I'm looking at the
6 fourth paragraph down. This was March 7,
7 2018. This was roughly six months before
8 you were hired by the plaintiffs' counsel
9 for your expert role in this case,
10 correct?

11 A. That would be about right.

12 Q. On Page 2 of Exhibit 8,
13 we -- we read, "Although the government
14 remains steadfast, the companies must
15 individually tailor their compliance
16 programs to suit each business and
17 organization. The OIG, among other
18 enforcement bodies, continue" --
19 "continues to embrace settlement
20 boilerplates and slowly increases the
21 burden and complexity for compliance
22 officers."

23 You previously wrote this
24 sentence, didn't you?

1 something to have been done about
2 it, and I don't see that.

3 BY MR. EPPICH:

4 Q. But, sir, you've testified
5 that you have no DEA experience.

6 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.
7 He said he didn't work for DEA.

8 THE WITNESS: This is not a
9 DEA-relevant issue. This is a
10 corporate compliance relevant
11 issue. And even so, the question
12 is, they were substantially in
13 charge of these programs. And I
14 have not seen McKesson take any
15 appropriate action to remove the
16 people who were supposed to be
17 running the program correctly and
18 overseeing it, and they're
19 accountable. There's no
20 accountability that I could see.

21 BY MR. EPPICH:

22 Q. Sir, you have no experience
23 working in the compliance department at a
24 pharmaceutical distributor, correct?

1 A. I have not worked for a
2 pharmaceutical distributor, but I'm not
3 sure how that's particularly relevant to
4 this particular -- is particularly
5 germane to this issue. Holding people
6 accountable who are supposed to be
7 running your compliance programs is
8 pretty germane issue and simple issue
9 across all the boards.

10 Q. Well, I think it's relevant,
11 sir, because you took it upon yourself to
12 name three of McKesson's employees in
13 your report as employees that McKesson
14 should have taken some form of
15 disciplinary action against.

16 And I would like to know
17 what basis you have for making these
18 allegations in your report, sir?

19 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

20 THE WITNESS: My
21 experience --

22 MR. BOGLE: Go ahead.

23 THE WITNESS: My experience
24 sitting here as a compliance

1 spot on the nonexistent remedial level of
2 the maturity scale?

3 A. Again, I'd say by and large,
4 yes.

5 Q. How can we tell that from
6 your report? I mean, where do we look in
7 your report to determine how far
8 Walgreens is from making its way onto the
9 foundational level of the compliance
10 maturity scale?

11 A. I didn't put you -- I didn't
12 put it on a graph, Counselor.

13 Q. That's why I'm asking the
14 question, sir.

15 A. No, I did not put it on a
16 graph.

17 Q. And so how are we supposed
18 to know from your report how far off the
19 scale we are?

20 A. I think you're missing the
21 point. Is you're not even moving to the
22 right-hand side of the scale, Counselor.
23 You're not even halfway to moving toward
24 an effective compliance program. You're

1 sitting at the left-hand edge. I think
2 you are overcharacterizing it.

3 Q. I understand that's your
4 position, sir. And I'm just trying to
5 get an understanding of your opinions.
6 And what I would like to know is, how,
7 from your report, am I supposed to
8 determine how far off to the left-hand
9 side of the scale Walgreens is supposed
10 to be?

11 A. And I guess what I'm trying
12 to say to you is I'm not sure that being
13 off to the left or how far off, if it's
14 one inch or three inches. I think you're
15 missing the point. You shouldn't be off
16 to the left-hand side at all. You should
17 be more towards the middle, to the
18 right-hand side of the graph. That's the
19 point.

20 Q. I understand that's your
21 position, sir. My question is coming
22 from a different place. I'm not asking
23 right now what you think we should have
24 done differently. I'm just trying to

1 understand how I'm supposed to know where
2 you think we actually are.

3 A. I think I told you where I
4 think you actually are.

5 Q. But there's -- as you said a
6 moment ago, there's no graph or chart
7 that shows where Walgreens falls with
8 respect to the compliance maturity scale,
9 correct? That's not in the report?

10 A. There is no point on the
11 graph that I put Walgreens on, if that's
12 what you're asking, Counselor, no.

13 Q. Turn if you would, please,
14 to Page 183, which is the start of the
15 Walgreens section.

16 A. I'm here.

17 Q. I notice you -- the heading
18 on this Section 13 is "Walgreens Boots
19 Alliance." Is that correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. The focus of the first
22 several paragraphs is also on Walgreens
23 Boots Alliance, right?

24 A. And Walgreens too. It's a

1 have good quality documentation. I think
2 that's a requirement. Otherwise how can
3 you know what you've done or not done?

4 Q. Sir --

5 A. I can --

6 MR. BOGLE: Finish your
7 answer. Are you done?

8 THE WITNESS: I'm done.

9 BY MS. SWIFT:

10 Q. Do you know what the word
11 diversion is?

12 A. Yeah. If you want to get
13 the precise definition we can go back to
14 the front of the report.

15 Q. I'd like to know if you can
16 give me a definition of diversion without
17 looking at something in your report.

18 A. Again, to be absolutely
19 precise, I would love to give you that.
20 I'm going to go back to my report and
21 rely on my report.

22 Q. It doesn't have to be that
23 precise.

24 A. I'm going to rely on my

1 report.

2 MR. BOGLE: You can go to
3 your report.

4 THE WITNESS: I'm going to
5 go with my --

6 MS. SWIFT: I don't want to
7 know the definition that he has in
8 his report.

9 BY MS. SWIFT:

10 Q. What I would like to know is
11 if you can give a definition without
12 looking at your report. Yes or no?

13 A. I'm going to look at my
14 report.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I want to look at my report.

17 Q. That's fine. We'll move on.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. You haven't done any
20 analysis of any order that Walgreens
21 shipped to one of its pharmacies to
22 determine whether that order led to drugs
23 being diverted, correct, sir?

24 A. Again, Counselor, I'm not

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
3 EASTERN DIVISION

4 - - -

5
6 IN RE: NATIONAL : HON. DAN A.
7 PRESCRIPTION OPIATE : POLSTER
8 LITIGATION :
9 : MDL NO. 2804
10 APPLIES TO ALL CASES :
11 : CASE NO.
12 : 17-MD-2804
13 :
14 :

15 - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -
16 SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW
17 VOLUME II

18 - - -

19 May 17, 2019

20 - - -

21 Continued videotaped
22 deposition of DR. SETH B. WHITELOW, taken
23 pursuant to notice, was held at the
24 offices of Golkow Litigation Services,
25 One Liberty Place, 1650 Market Street,
26 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, beginning at
27 8:31 a.m., on the above date, before
28 Michelle L. Gray, a Registered
29 Professional Reporter, Certified
30 Shorthand Reporter, Certified Realtime
31 Reporter, and Notary Public.

32 - - -

33 GOLKOW LITIGATION SERVICES
34 877.370.3377 ph | 917.591.5672 fax
35 deps@golkow.com

1 A. Applied to an SOM program
2 alone?

3 Q. Yes, have you ever found,
4 when you applied it to a SOM program,
5 have you found such a program to score
6 above the foundational level?

7 A. No, I have not.

8 Q. Before you were engaged in
9 this case, had you ever used this model
10 to evaluate an SOM program?

11 A. No, I had not. But it is a
12 standard compliance maturity model that
13 I've used to evaluate compliance
14 programs.

15 Q. But not an SOM program
16 before you were --

17 A. Not an SOM --

18 Q. -- engaged in this case?

19 A. -- program, per se.

20 Q. I want to turn to --

21 MR. BOGLE: Just wait until
22 he finishes.

23 BY MR. HYNES:

24 Q. -- CVS's distribution

1 reviewed at the Lumberton distribution
2 center, right?

3 A. That's my recollection.

4 Q. By Mr. Mortelitti?

5 A. That is also my
6 recollection.

7 Q. And you write he had no
8 prior experience with suspicious order
9 monitoring.

10 A. I can go back and look at
11 the report, but yes, I recall that.

12 Q. Okay. But you also don't
13 have any prior experience with suspicious
14 order monitoring, do you?

15 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.
16 Misstates testimony.

17 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure I
18 understand what you mean. I do
19 have experience working in
20 regulated -- I did -- I have
21 reviewed the requirements around
22 being a suspicious order
23 monitoring. If you asked if I
24 built and designed a system, no, I

1 haven't. But that's already on
2 the record.

3 BY MR. HYNES:

4 Q. You've never operated an SOM
5 system either, have you?

6 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

7 THE WITNESS: No. My role
8 is -- no, I have not.

9 BY MR. HYNES:

10 Q. You've never audited an SOM
11 system, have you?

12 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

13 THE WITNESS: No, I have not
14 audited an SOM system. But I
15 have -- I have audited PDMA
16 systems which are substantially
17 similar.

18 BY MR. HYNES:

19 Q. But not an SOM system?

20 A. Not an SOM system.

21 Q. And you write that "CVS had
22 one person doing the daily review of the
23 IRR."

24 But there were people in the

1 A. I did look at it. It's
2 footnoted in my report. So obviously I
3 did look through it and look at it, yes.

4 Q. All right. So the
5 compliance program for physicians is
6 footnoted in your report is your
7 recollection?

8 A. It is.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, you
10 stated just a little while ago to
11 Mr. Hynes that you've never operated or
12 audited a suspicious order monitoring
13 system; is that correct?

14 A. That is what I told him,
15 yes.

16 Q. Okay. Do you consider
17 yourself an expert on suspicious order
18 monitoring?

19 A. I believe, based on the work
20 that I have done, my 30 years'
21 experience, all that I have reviewed, all
22 the DEA guidance I have reviewed, my
23 conversations with Mr. Rafalski, yes, I
24 would say that I am qualified to be a

1 SOMs expert.

2 Q. And prior to your
3 discussions with Mr. Rafalski, all of the
4 documents that you reviewed for this
5 litigation, all of the deposition
6 transcripts, all of that work that you
7 did for this litigation, would you have
8 considered yourself a suspicious order
9 monitoring expert?

10 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

11 THE WITNESS: Could you be
12 more -- again, could you repeat
13 the question? I'm sorry. It's
14 been a long day.

15 BY MR. DAVISON:

16 Q. Understood, sir. So prior
17 to the work that you did for this
18 litigation, which we've discussed
19 included reviewing, you know, hundreds of
20 thousands of documents, deposition
21 transcripts, discussions with
22 Mr. Rafalski, did you consider yourself a
23 suspicious order monitoring expert?

24 MR. BOGLE: Same objection.

1 variety of different areas. I'm
2 not sure that I reflected on it
3 the way you're asking me to.

4 BY MR. DAVISON:

5 Q. Okay. Prior to this
6 litigation, have you ever held yourself
7 out to a potential client as a suspicious
8 order monitoring expert?

9 A. Other than the work that I
10 did on a proposal for Deloitte, which,
11 again, was more of a compliance process
12 assessment for suspicious order
13 monitoring program, I don't recall ever
14 putting that moniker on my name.

15 Q. So you didn't tell Henry
16 Schein that you were an -- that you were
17 an expert in suspicious order monitoring
18 when you made that pitch, correct?

19 MR. BOGLE: Objection.

20 Misstates testimony.

21 THE WITNESS: As I said, I
22 think I answered your question as
23 best I can. I don't have anything
24 else to add to that answer.

1 A. From time to time, yes.

2 Q. All right. So

3 Dr. Whitelaw's expectation is that
4 manufacturers conduct reviews and audits
5 of distributors on top of what DEA does,
6 correct?

7 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

8 THE WITNESS: They -- they
9 are your customers. You should be
10 aware of what they are doing and
11 comfortable with the way they are
12 acting. That is just good
13 third-party management, which is
14 part of an effective compliance
15 program.

16 Again, when you go back to
17 the federal sentencing guidelines,
18 the front of the report, if we
19 really want to discuss it in
20 detail, yeah, my expectation was
21 that you manage your own third
22 parties as well and not just
23 simply rely on the DEA.

24 BY MR. DAVISON:

1 What I'm saying is it's up
2 to the manufacturer to incorporate it and
3 they should make an effort to use that
4 data.

5 Q. And, sir, with respect to
6 using that data, it could be used
7 differently by different manufacturers,
8 correct?

9 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

10 THE WITNESS: Could you --
11 could you restate the question for
12 me, please?

13 BY MR. DAVISON:

14 Q. Sure.

15 Under the -- the
16 Dr. Whitelaw good manufacturers
17 controlled substances compliance
18 program -- or excuse me, anti-diversion
19 compliance program --

20 A. You mean under the
21 attributes that I list in my report that
22 I gleaned from experience in the federal
23 sentencing guidelines and Controlled
24 Substances Act, et cetera? Is that what

1 we're referring to?

2 Q. The attributes that are
3 listed in your report on Page 36.

4 A. Okay. Great.

5 Q. You don't define a way that
6 you expect manufacturers to monitor
7 chargebacks, correct?

8 A. No, I do not define a
9 specific way for...

10 Q. Are you aware of DEA ever
11 suggesting a specific metric or method
12 that manufacturers are to use in
13 analyzing chargeback data?

14 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

15 THE WITNESS: No, I am not
16 aware of DEA ever suggesting a
17 specific methodology to analyze
18 and review chargeback data.

19 BY MR. DAVISON:

20 Q. So under the expectations
21 that you have for a manufacturer's
22 program, is one way the manufacturer
23 could utilize chargeback data to utilize
24 the data to look at its distributors and

1 A. It does.

2 Q. And you state that "a
3 manufacturer should instruct and require
4 its sales representatives and inhouse
5 field support and marketing personnel to
6 provide any observations of potential
7 diversionary behavior to their inhouse
8 compliance department for further
9 evaluation and potential action,"
10 correct?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And, sir, is -- is this
13 something that's explicitly laid out in
14 the CSA?

15 A. It is embedded in the CSA.

16 Q. And it's embedded under
17 those -- those four words of controls
18 against effective diversion, correct?

19 MR. BOGLE: Object to form.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, as well
21 as under the federal sentencing
22 guidelines of what an effective
23 compliance program looks like as
24 well, so...

1 somehow monitor physicians, correct?

2 A. I'm not saying that you have
3 to create a sales force. I'm saying
4 again the whole gist of this is you have
5 available information, if you have boots
6 on the ground, if you have people out
7 there who are observing behavior and they
8 see something that's troubling, you know,
9 it's about as basic as what you see on
10 Amtrak these days. If you see something,
11 say something.

12 Q. And all of that -- that
13 obligation, again, comes from the four
14 words "effective controls against
15 diversion," right?

16 A. It comes from the federal
17 sentencing guidelines together with the
18 four words of "effective controls against
19 diversion," yes.

20 Q. You also mention IMS data,
21 correct?

22 A. Is there a particular
23 section that you're looking at?

24 Q. Yeah. Page 43. At the top.